

The Newsletter

May AS XLII Volume XV Issue 5



Published on behalf of the shire of Falcon's Keep and student members of Falcon's Gate

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Submissions are accepted until the 15th of the previous month, preferably as a Word document inserted into an email. Send to both the Chronicler and Deputy Chronicler. The last Thursday of the previous month is the mailing date. Submissions are the property of the contributor and may not be used without permission of the author or artist. Contact the Chronicler for further information.

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Greetings from your Seneschal!

I hope my missive finds all of you well now that spring has sprung and better weather is in the air.

During our last moot we discussed starting a new guild in the shire to give people an opportunity to learn more on cooking and brewing. This is a great idea brought to us Baron Guttorm. If interested in joining the Cooking and Brewing guild please contact Baron Guttorm. We also talked about adding more guilds in the future, so if you have anything you might be interested in please contact our Minister of Arts and Sciences. To all of those who brought something made of oats thank you for your contributions to the afternoons meal, everything was great. Also thanks to Maebh for the use of her lovely home. The next moot will be at Lady Reina's on the 12th of May. We will be having a shire picnic/cook out. We will be following the events of the tournament that day during the meeting.

With the camping season quickly approaching the next newcomers meeting will cover items needed for camping events. The meeting will take place at the home of THL Alexandra der Wasserman on May 6th @ noon. If you feel you have something to contribute please contact our Chatelaine.

Thank you for your time,

Lady Mary

Web pages of interest:

www.sca.org

www.northshield.org

www.falconskeep.org

www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/falcon/index.htm

The Chronicler's Quill

Greetings onto the folk of the shire of Falcon's Keep,

May 1 is the birthday of the SCA. Many things have changed in the last 42 years. We've gone from some friends having a picnic in Berkley to a corporation, from freon helms and carpet armor to plate, and from 3 Kingdoms to 19. We've developed a hierarchy of titles, and awards and offices and have held thousands of local, Kingdom, inter-Kingdom and even a few SCA wide events. I have been involved personally for more than 32 years and have lived through many of these changes. In the SCA I have done many things I would not otherwise have tried from sewing without a pattern to roasting a peacock, from calligraphy to leatherwork, from dancing bransles to nalbinding. I've even tried both heavy and rapier combat. The SCA today is exciting and inspiring and the possibilities are almost endless, but sometimes I worry that we are getting enmeshed in the structure and rules and forgetting the original goal of having fun by learning about and recreating the middle ages. Spring is a time of new beginnings. Here in the Keep we are embarking on several projects including planning for Fall Coronation (which can finally proceed once who know who will be crowned here in September) and Guttorm's suggestion of a Brewing, Vintning, and Cooking Guild. In this new year, let's work together to make the SCA both educational and FUN.

As always, we need material for the Mewsletter. I would like to encourage everyone to develop his or her personna and write the story for "Folk of the Shire" and to submit questions to THL Lady Alex for her new "Ask Alex" column. Other submissions including cover art, A&S articles, and event reports are needed every month for the Mewsletter. If you do not yet subscribe to the Mewsletter, it is never too late. This years Mewsletter is available at reduced subscription prices of \$10 for paper and \$5 for electronic (prorated for issues missed). (We must bill for both electronic and paper since both help to support the required copies to royalty and corporate officers). Subscriptions should be sent to the Exchequer.

Yours in service, ealasaid

Greetings and Salutations from Baron Guttorm,

This is a follow-up to discussion at the April Moot. After the March Moot where we discussed what we could do to help members prepare for upcoming A&S competitions, I thought maybe we should try to start a Brewers and Vintners Guild to encourage discussion and promote sharing of our latest wines. Note that this is not a new or original idea, but just an extension of our discussion from March. Ealasaid proposed we combine B&V with cookery since there is a strong cross over of interested people, and that this complements our cooking challenges at each monthly moot. These proposals were met with approval from those present. So every 3 or 4 months, after the business meeting and the food, we will have a B&V/Cookery Guild meeting.

The first B&V/Cookery guild meeting will be at the June Moot at our house. Janvier will start a batch of his mead, demonstrating how he does the first stage of making mead. And if anyone is interested, I can relate my experiences with two wine kits from winexpert. We will also talk about upcoming competitions, and discuss the possibility of a fall trip to harvest some grapes.

Ancient and Medieval uses of Sulfites

In ancient times both the Egyptians and the Romans used sulfur to sterilize casks.^{1,2} The burning of sulfur or sulfur candles in a cask would have added SO₂ to the wine as was noted by John Evelyn in 1670 where the wine is added to the cask while the smoke still remains.^{3,4} Burning sulfur, or brimstone, to sterilize casks has continued to more recent times, as late as 1829.⁵ Addition of sulfur to cider is noted in a 'cydor' recipe from 1647.⁸

¹ **The Origins and Ancient History of Wine**, ed. Patrick E. McGovern, Stuart J. Fleming, and Solomon H. Katz, Gordon and Breach Publishers (1996).

² http://grapevinecottage.com/Pages/AR_sulfites.html

³ Rose, A.H. and Pilkington, B.J. (1989) Sulphite. In *Mechanisms Action of Food Preservation Procedures* ed. Gould G.W. pp201-223. London and New York: Elsevier Applied Science.

⁴ Simon, Andre, *Wines of the World*. McGraw Hill. New York, N.Y.

⁵ Cindy Renfrow, *A Sip Through Time*, 1995, page 131.

⁶ Cindy Renfrow, *A Sip Through Time*, 1995, page 231.

Ask Alex

Greetings! Allow me to introduce myself and my new column. I am The Honorable Lady Alexandra der Wasserman. I have held many positions in both the Shire of Falcon's Keep and Northshield. I had this feeling that there are some things that everyone seems to know about, so new people didn't really want to ask. This column will be a regular feature of the Mewsletter, as long as there are questions to be answered. So, please send me your questions. Anything about the Shire, the Kingdom or the SCA is fair game. I will do my best to answer any questions that come my way. So, here goes my first attempt.



‘This is great! How do I join?’

This is a question I have heard many times, and it doesn't have just one answer. In order to 'join', all a person must do is make an attempt at pre 16th century garb, and show up. That's it. The Shire has some loaner garb available, so we can help you get started. At this point, you can attend Shire meetings, go to events, participate in archery and even go to armored and rapier practices. There is no limit to the arts and sciences you can learn. Some of the areas people in the Shire are active in are cooking, wine making, armor making, weaving, embroidery, calligraphy, illumination, blacksmithing and many others.

While many individuals never go any farther than this when it comes to membership, there are a few limitations for those who have not signed up for a membership at the national level. At most events, there is an additional \$3.00 non-member surcharge. This is a fee that is charged in addition to the normal entrance fee, and is sent directly to the Kingdom and then on to our corporate offices. It is charged to any adult who is not a national member of

the Society for Creative Anachronism. Furthermore, without being a member, you cannot be an officer or become an authorized combatant (needed in order to fight or compete at events).

While becoming a national member is not a requirement for most people, there are many advantages. You no longer have to pay the non-member surcharge and if you are interested in combat, you can test your skills with the best the Kingdom has to offer. You can also become an officer at either the local, regional or Kingdom level. It is not that scary and is a lot of fun, trust me! You will get a shiny new blue card and the Kingdom newsletter, the Northwatch. The Northwatch contains letters from our Royalty and all the Kingdom officers. There are articles, the calendar, event ads, and contact information for all areas of the Kingdom. All this can be yours for the small yearly fee of \$35.00. There are additional publications you can purchase and the membership for a family is a bit more. For me and my family, it is well worth it.

In addition to the monthly Kingdom newsletter, we have a local newsletter called the Mewsletter. In fact, you are reading it right now! There is a yearly fee for this newsletter that goes to the Shire and is used to defray the cost of publishing and postage. The Mewsletter is available in hard copy or can be sent directly to you as an e-mail attachment. This publication contains information at a more local level. There will be reports from your local officers, articles of interest and local contact information.

I hope this makes 'membership' a little easier to understand. Tune in next time for the answers to more questions. If you have anything you don't understand or feel uncomfortable asking someone, sent it to me at terris@tznet.com" terris@tznet.com
Please put SCA or newsletter question in the subject line, so it will make it through my junk filter. See you next month!

Alex

CALENDAR

May 2007 (AS XLII)

- 5- Shire Birthday [Rockwall- Johnstown, WI]
- 12- Northshield Spring Crown [Korsvag- West Fargo, ND]
- 17-20 Quest for Camelot [Schattentor - Nemo, SD]
- 18-19 Beltaine V [Darkstone- Ashland WI]
- 25-27 Midsummers Eve in the Highlands
[Trewint, Wessington Springs. SD]
- 25-28 Ages of War: Varangian Guard [Calontir]
- 25-28 ARRG VI [Jararvellir-Montello, WI]

June 2007

- 1-3 Quest for the Summer Sun [Windhaven-Algoma, WI]
- 2 Feast Day of Old Favorites [Castel Rouge, Winnipeg, MB]
- 8-10 - Mermaids Retreat 2007:Woodland Wars-The Ultimate Surf
and Turf [Turm an dem See - Valders, WI]
- 15-17 - Castle Fever [Silfren Mere - Oronoco, MN]
- 22-24 - Naadam: Schutzenfest on the Steppes
[Nordskogen - Waconia, MN]
- 22-24 - Border Skirmish IV [Caer Anterth Mawr-Lakemore, IL]
- 22-24 - Thatsa Mare [Mare Amethystinum - Thunder Bay, ON]
- 29-1 - Moorish Tavern XVII [Midewinde - Bottineau, ND]

July 2007

- 5-8 Warriors and Warlords XIV [Jararvellir-Black River Falls, WI]
- 21-23 Rabid Yale Hunt VIII [Coldedernhale-White River, SD]
- 21 River Revel II Oeneach [Stromfels-River Falls, WI]
- 21 BOD Meeting[Nordskogen, Minneapolis, MN]
- 27-12 Pennsic War 36 [Aethelmearc, Slippery Rock, PA]

August 2007

- 3-5 Poor Man's Pennsic [Falcon's Keep, Pittsville, WI]
- 17-19 BYOM V [Vilku Urvas- Deer River, MN]
- 17-19 Woodland Romp V [Skerjastrond- Gwinn, MI]
- 31-3 A Viking Odyssey-Love on the Fjords! [Castel Rouge, MB]
- 31-2 Autumn Rose [Rokeclif-Galesville, WI]

Fighter practices for both Rapier and Armored will be held on Monday night at UWSP in the Quandt Gym balcony and Room 154. See the website for directions.

**Crown Tournament too far and too costly?
Get the news close to home at the
Shire Picnic, Coronation Staff and Monthly Moot**

WHEN: May 12th at 11am til ?

WHERE: at the home of Lady Reina Gunnora of Falcon's Keep
1934 Eva Rd. Mosinee, WI 715-572-3079

WHAT: Group Picnic!, news updates on Crown tournament, collect ideas for fall coronation, monthly moot, games, fighter practice, etc.

As you all know our Spring Crown Tourney will be May 12th in North Dakota. Many will not be able to attend due to distance and funds. So, I have decided to have a little fun gathering to celebrate the Crown Tourney and Our future Fall Coronation. If you have photos or memories of Tourneys/Coronations of the past or a story to tell we would like to hear them. I will be hosting a Coronation Staff / Monthly Shire Moot and Shire Picnic at my home in the Wausau area. I will try to have someone at the event update us with the winners throughout the day and will be discussing fall coronation ideas with everyone. There will be space available for all fighters to practice so bring your gear. If you don't practice maybe bring a project you are working on. For Lunch, we will have a big cookout and the hamburgers will be provided. There will be a list on the FK message board (link on home page) for you to sign up to let everyone know what is being brought, it will also give us a count of people coming so we know how much is needed. We will also have the montly Shire meeting that day as well. Lots of stuff to do for the day but most importantly, LOTS OF FUN!

From Marshfield: Take WI-97 North toward Stratford

At stop lights, Take a Right onto WI-153 East toward Mosinee

Go through Mosinee, turning right. (*Continue with directions below*)

From Rapids: Take WI-54 East to Plover

Take Plover Road/CR-B through Plover (*Continue with directions below*)

Merge onto I-39/US-51 North

Take exit 185 (Cedar Creek Mall exit) toward Rothschild/Wausau

Turn Right onto business US-Business51/Old US-51.

Turn Right at next lights onto CR-XX S/Imperial Ave.

Turn Right at next lights onto CR-XX.

Follow curve past Gander Mt. and Harley Davidson

Go through lights.

At the corner of the Mobil station, Turn Right onto Terrebonne

Then Left onto Eva Road

Go 3/10 of a mile to Morningside Meadows on the Left

Park in the front parking spots, first building the Right, 2nd floor (17steps), Apt. 5

FOLK OF THE SHIRE: BARON GUTTORM

I, Guttorm Arnesson, was born in the North, a 2nd son, which means I would not inherit the family farm, so I had to earn my future by going a Viking. My travels took me west, to Alba (Scotland) where I claimed Ealasaid who later became my wife. In Jararvellir, I served as seneschal and we hosted many great feasts but the wanderlust was in our hearts. We found ourselves in the East where our children, Caitlin, Knut and Olav



were born. We traveled far and dwelt in many kingdoms until at last, my head filled with tales from travelers I had met, I set out to Constantinople to join the Varangian Guard. After a time, I traveled further east with a caravan seeking riches, spice and a fine cloth. There I met a Master who trained me in a martial art called TaeKyon, and later I learned and studied with a group called the Sulsa. After many years, with the children grown, I returned to the north of Scotland, Orkney and Iceland, there to make my own homestead. A great King in a realm called Northshield has named me Baron and given me a very fine coronet. Although I do not fully understand these things, I appreciate the honor he has shown to me. But ever wondering, I listen to stories of land further west over the sea. My story is not finished as long as there are still new lands to visit.

Officers of Falcon's Keep

Seneschal: Mary of Falcon's Keep
 104 Florence St, Wausau, WI
 715-297-0718 venom@charter.net

Deputy Seneschal: Lord Justinian

Pursuivant: Lord Grimr inn harfagri (MKA Dennis Russell)
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Deputy Pursuivant: vacant

Exchequer: Lady Isabeau of Winter Rose (MKA Alyce Knutson)
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